

Testimony on S.B. 184 and H.B. 5262

General Administration and Elections Committee

March 2, 2022

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Senator Haskell, Representative Thomas, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco and other esteemed Committee members, my name is Win Evarts and I live in Norwalk with my wife and 31-year-old son. I am also the Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, Inc., the state's oldest and largest advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the rights of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and promoting opportunities for their inclusion in the full lives of their communities.

The passage of both SB 184 and HB 5262 will enable our family to vote safely and conveniently in the upcoming election. Our 31-year-old son has an intractable seizure disorder and an intellectual disability and doesn't voice pain or sickness. 2020 and 2021's measures to allow no excuse absentee voting enabled all of us to safely vote. Without those measures, it's unlikely that all of us could get to the polls on Election Day given the continued presence of COVID.

2020's voter participation was far better than 2018's. This fact should also be taken into account. The changes enacted in 2020 and 2021 should continue in 2022 and beyond. The changes have bestowed upon voters an appropriate amount of convenience which has especially helped people with disabilities and people working multiple shifts participate in our democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue.

Win Evarts

16 Forest Hill Road

Norwalk, CT 06850